



ALEXANDRIA.

TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 23.

MAHONE'S ADDRESS.

Fellow Citizens—The managers of the democratic party held a convention at Roanoke on the 4th of August, 1887, and promulgated a platform—in reality a series of apologies for their broken pledges. It has not been the custom of the republican party to assemble in State convention at other times than when necessary to nominate a State ticket, or send delegates to a national convention. The State committee, representing the republican party, have seen no occasion for departure from this rule. This party has no account of any stewardship to render, since for four years it has had no control over the administration of State affairs. Meanwhile republican principles have not changed since they were formally announced by State convention in 1855.

The principles of the Virginia republicans are the same as those of the national republican party. We could not desire to do otherwise and mislead the voters of this State into the support of our party's candidates for the Legislature to be elected in November next, by any announcement of our own individual advocacy of principles, which we know to be in antagonism to the belief and principles of the republican party of the nation.

Having neither done, nor omitted, anything in the discharge of any duty or trust imposed upon our party which needs explanation, or for which we would desire to apologize, the reasons necessitating the Roanoke convention do not exist as to the republican party of this State.

Nevertheless, we have resolved to present to you this address, setting forth certain leading facts of political history, contradicting the statements of the Roanoke platform, and to ask you to ponder them well before you again exercise the right of suffrage. We shall first deal with the statements of that platform in the order in which they are made.

First, As to the endorsement of President Cleveland and the declaration, which it makes, that his administration will receive the cordial support of the democratic party of Virginia.

If this statement is sincere then the succeeding statements demanding the immediate repeal of the internal revenue system and the passage of the Blair bill, must be insincere; for the opposition of President Cleveland to the one, and the lack of his endorsement of the other, of these measures is known of all men.

His formal and express approval of Secretary Manning's views and recommendations upon the subject of taxation and revenue is conclusive upon this question.

Secretary Manning not only deprecates the fact that there is no longer any duty or tax imposed upon tea and coffee, but, while urging a reduction of duties upon such articles of import as are produced in our own country, squarely opposes any reduction of the taxes imposed upon tobacco, fruit distillations and whiskey.

President Cleveland approves these views and recommendations of Secretary Manning. The democratic managers of the Roanoke convention endorse his administration, and yet declare for a repeal of the internal revenue system.

That President Cleveland's administration is a great and bitter disappointment to many of the managers of the democratic party of Virginia, is attested by loud and deep complaints. This pretended support of him is not only inconsistent with the advocacy of the repeal of the internal revenue system, and the passage of the Blair Educational Bill, but is serving and delusive.

It remains to be seen whether the people of this State can be duped into his support, and that of candidates for the Legislature of the party endorsing his administration, by the inconsistent utterances of the democratic managers of Virginia.

Second, As to the internal revenue system. The Roanoke platform seeks to create the impression among the people that the democratic party favors the immediate repeal of that system. It may be that the democratic managers, who promulgated that platform, sincerely wish the repeal of the internal revenue system, from motives of self preservation; but, when they formally declare for the repeal of the system as part of the democratic faith, it is apparent that they are guilty of an effort to deceive the voters of this Commonwealth. That system is held by the democratic party as a hostage, to compel the overthrow of the republican policy of protection to American labor and industries.

The authors of the Roanoke platform know full well that the national democracy opposes that repeal, and that the few democrats in accord with this declaration of the Roanoke platform are in a hopeless minority of the democratic party. The national democratic platform, upon which President Cleveland was elected in 1884, promised no repeal of the internal revenue system, but pledged the party to a continuance of the internal revenue taxes and their application to the payment of pensions.

The national democratic plan of reducing tariff duties embraces a continuance of these taxes. Every message of President Cleveland has ignored any suggestion of a repeal of the internal revenue system, and to the repeated efforts of the small minority of democrats who seek its repeal, the democratic majority of the Forty-ninth Congress, speaking through its Committee on Ways and Means—speaking for an overwhelming majority of the democratic party—speaking in accord with the views of President Cleveland, has given the following unmistakable responses on behalf of the democratic party.

On the 10th July, 1886, in the House of Representatives of the United States, Mr. Morrison, a leading democrat and chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, on behalf of the democratic majority of the House, submitted from his committee an adverse report upon a bill "to reduce the internal revenue taxes," &c. That report is House document, 1st session of the 49th Congress, No. 3209, and contains the following language:

"Attempts to remove the tobacco and other internal taxes are usually justified by asserting these to be war taxes, and in apparent forgetfulness of the fact that so far as relates to its money obligations the war is not half over, and will not be over until we have paid \$4,000,000,000 yet to be collected in taxes from the people.

"A tax on these—tobacco, snuff, cigarettes, &c., is largely a tax on indulgence and excess, and its payment largely voluntary. Taxes not paid on these must be paid on necessities of life, and these are not necessities of life. This tax should not be removed."

Upon the same day Mr. W. C. P. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, another democratic leader and representative of the democratic majority, submitted to the House of Representatives from the Committee on Ways and Means another adverse report upon a resolution "repealing the taxes upon tobacco." That report is House document No. 3210, and contains the following language:

"We are quite contented to defer action upon the tobacco tax until the purpose for which it was originally made has been met, or until by the decrease of the public debt and the revision of our present unjust and unequal tariff laws the revenues to meet it can be raised with less hardship. It is a war tax, and the financial war is not yet ended and will not be until the last dollar of our war debt is paid, and the last pension is fully paid."

"Among the war taxes which are now in force are the tax upon tobacco, both domestic and foreign; upon spirits and beer, both domestic and foreign; and upon imported sugar. All of these combined barely suffice to meet the annual charge for the cost of the war, which is still upon us."

"For these and other reasons we believe that it is expedient to maintain taxes both upon the domestic production and foreign import of tobacco."

This is the later record of the national democracy, now in power, upon the question of a repeal of the internal revenue system. But it must not be forgotten that the democratic party, which, for ten years, save for the term of the 47th Congress, controlled the House of Representatives, where alone any measure for the repeal or reduction of these taxes could be initiated, failed to act on the subject, and that it was by the 47th Congress, republican, that taxes were reduced fully fifty millions and the tax on tobacco was reduced from 16 to 8 cents.

Yet, the leaders and managers of the democratic party in Virginia would delude the people into the belief that repeal of that system may now be accomplished by the democratic party. In 1884 such pretence was successfully used by several democratic candidates for Congress. The plea was that they needed the Presidency to secure the repeal of the system, and the people were thus deluded into their support. In 1886 the promise of this repeal was as vehemently made as in 1884, by several democratic candidates for Congress; but the people could no longer be deceived. The record of the democratic administration, and of the national democracy, against a repeal of internal revenue system, was stronger than any asseveration of the principles of its minority, and the result was the defeat of such candidates.

It remains now to be tested whether the same hollow pretences can be used in 1887, by the democratic leaders, with any more success than attended them in 1886.

We declare to you that, at the moment the republican party lost the control of the Government, it was prepared to act upon this subject; that President Arthur had urged the repeal of the tobacco tax, and a democratic House with the republican Senate ready and anxious to reduce taxes, declined to proceed; that the republican party is now practically united in favor of the repeal of the tax on tobacco and fruit distillations; and that if restored to power it will remove the burden which these domestic products have so long endured.

We assert to you, that the democratic party by an overwhelming majority in Congress, is opposed to the repeal of the internal revenue system, as is shown by its record, and the declaration of its leading and controlling men from President Cleveland down. We appeal to you, if you favor the repeal of that system, to support republican candidates for the Legislature, and not to waste your votes on democratic candidates, whose faction, favoring repeal of these taxes is in a hopeless minority of its own national party.

Third, As to the tariff. The platform of the Roanoke convention, in this respect, is at variance with the record of the national democratic party. It traverses the national platform of the party, the recommendations of its President, and the propositions of its controlling faction in Congress. The Roanoke platform declares in favor of a revenue derived from a tariff on imports and in favor of a repeal of the internal revenue system; while the record of the democratic party of this country consistently and unwaveringly shows that the reverse is the democratic doctrine. The democratic view is a reduction of import duties to virtual free trade, and the maintenance of the internal revenue system as a means of compelling the adoption of that un-American policy; and we arraign the Roanoke platform as misleading, and seeking to deceive the people of Virginia upon a question vital to their every interest, and to the progress and power of the State.

It remains to be seen, fellow-citizens, whether you will become the dupes of pretences which have made the authors of this platform the laughing-stock of the leading journals of their own party. The Washington Post and the New York World—two of the most influential democratic journals of America—have declared boldly and openly that the planks of the Roanoke platform upon the internal revenue and tariff are diametrically opposed to democratic principles; and all over the West, North and East, from St. Louis and Louisville to Boston and Bangor, the orthodox organs of the democracy have united in denouncing and denouncing this platform and its framers.

Fourth, As to the public debt. For eight years, from 1871 to 1879, the leaders of the Virginia democracy were in undisputed control of the administration of the State government. During that period they gave the people no intelligible statement of the debt, but on the contrary produced divers irreconcilable and conflicting statements, only tending to make confusion worse confounded. They formulated no plan for adjusting the equities between the several classes of the creditors of the State, and finally lost power by the passage of a stupid and odious measure known as the McCulloch bill, which satisfied neither debt nor creditor.

In 1881 our party was called to full power by the people, and within sixty days after the meeting of the Legislature prepared, presented and passed a measure which set forth the amount of our public debt, and a plan of readjusting it equitably as between the several classes of our bondholders, in such form that no one has yet been found to question successfully the amount of the debt, or the equity of the adjustment between the creditors as therein stated.

When this measure was passed, the Bourbon leaders denounced it as dishonest, and predicted its utter failure. Nevertheless, it went into effect, and was progressing most encouragingly. The only test case under the debt legislation of 1882 which went to the Supreme Court of the United States was decided in favor of the constitutionality of the law involved, a law vital to the enforcement of the whole scheme, and the people were cheered by the hope that a final settlement was indeed near at hand.

Seeing this condition of affairs, the Bourbon convention of 1883 abandoned all pretence of opposition upon principle to the debt settlement; it pocketed its oft avowed enmity to the legislation supporting it; declared that the debt question was settled forever; and it regained power under a solemn pledge not to disturb it, but to carry out the settlement according to its true intent and tenor. How the democrats have redeemed that pledge, let the record and present condition of the debt question speak.

From the moment the democratic managers were restored to the control of State affairs, the settlement has languished. They have baffled its execution by their incompetence and unfaithfulness.

Without understanding the principles upon which the supplementary laws to the debt settlement were framed, they at once proceeded to amend them, although pledged to let them alone. The amendments were carried to the federal courts, after these amendments had rendered the original enactments unconstitutional, were all decided adversely to the State. Funding under these laws has virtually ceased; and under the judicial decisions which have been thus invited the coupons are more powerful

than ever. The debt question, which was declared settled in 1883, is now, in 1887, unsettled, and if possible in worse shape than ever, although the affairs of the State mean while have been exclusively under democratic control.

In the interval, having amended the laws on which the debt settlement was dependent for success, contrary to their pledged faith, the democrats have seriously proposed, through their leader in the Senate, to repeal all the legislation supplemental to that bill, thus confirming the destruction of the measure by their own intermeddling.

They have invited the British bondholders here for conference and adjustment, and appointed a committee to deal with them, carefully excluding from that committee any representative of the republican party. This itself was an outrage upon the republicans of Virginia, who are in a majority of 20,000, according to the returns of the last general election in this State, and who are tax payers, as much interested in this question as the democratic minority—having a stake in the Commonwealth and her concerns that would have suggested at least some representation for them to any but Bourbon partisans. Being non-political, the question should have been treated outside of party lines.

But the Bourbon leaders, thus assuming the entire responsibility for the negotiations with the British bondholders, proceeded to receive from them and make to them, offers which were not on the basis of the settlement to which they were pledged. Five times in the Bourbon legislature, then in session, resolutions directing the Virginia committee to tender to the British commission our debt settlement of 1882 were voted down, and we charge that that settlement never was tendered to the British commissioners. On the contrary, the Virginia committee tendered a settlement to the British commissioners which, both as to amount and as to the feature of tax-receivable coupons, was in violation of their pledge to maintain the debt settlement as that of their own party, and was an abandonment of that settlement.

Now that the democrats have assembled at Roanoke and again pledged themselves to stand by our settlement (a settlement which they have virtually destroyed), they seem to think that public confidence has put no limit to its credulity, and that this simple declaration is all sufficient to restore to them the wavering popular support.

They apparently forget that this declaration is not such as it would have been before they tampered with that settlement. They seem to forget that such declaration is now in defiance of creditor and court, who have taken position on this settlement by their invitation. They apparently fail to realize that standing by this settlement, which they themselves have unsettled, neither settles the questions they have reopened, pays the debt, nor hinders the absorption of revenue by the coupons, which are again active and self-asserting. The most that they propose is to stand still by the shattered fragments of that settlement, and allow their funding bill and brokers' bill mortgages upon our revenues to bury the taxable energies of our people beneath coupons, accumulating at the rate of \$1,250,000 annually. It is an evasion of the pressing, living question which is uppermost in the mind of every citizen of Virginia, and more important than all others to the progress and prosperity of the State.

It is for you to decide, fellow-citizens, whether you will again accept their apologies, and leave the debt settlement in their hands to go from bad to worse, or, ere it is too late, recomit the matter to those whose work the democratic party endorsed and have adopted—a work which would doubtless have gone to full success but for their ignorant tampering with its vital parts—a work which they can never complete, because they lack the capacity to comprehend and the disposition to meet the exigencies of the question.

We believe, fellow-citizens, that you heartily desire a prompt and final settlement of this question. Your every interest demands this. Your State is suffering untold injury every hour it is delayed. We believe, if power is delegated to the republican party, it will not stand still, but will proceed promptly to such measures as will effect a final disposition of this long agitated and much complicated problem, upon terms, we say, while in no wise dishonorable to you or the State, must be acceptable to the creditors, and without increasing your tax burdens.

Fifth, As to Federal aid in the debt settlement. This idea, feebly presented by its proponents without any confidence on their part, has no merit of originality, and is not offered to you with the courage of their convictions that it is practicable. It was first advanced by the late Henry A. Wise in a speech at West Point, Va., December, 1874. No man in Virginia was further away from these Bourbon leaders in his feelings than was Gov. Wise. He had denounced their incompetency on the debt question, their dishonesty and hypocrisy in elections, and had stamped them with the unflinching description that they had "outswaggled the scoundrel and out-carpeted the carpetbaggers." This Federal aid was next advocated by the Hon. James G. Blaine, of Maine, the republican candidate for President of the United States against Mr. Cleveland. If it is ever given effect, it will be in opposition to the narrow views of Federal power entertained by the democracy, and through the liberal construction contended for by the republican party. It remains to be seen whether the people, knowing that the principle of such aid is contrary to democratic doctrine, and that the idea originated outside the democratic party, will be deluded by the hope that it can be successfully carried out by the democracy of Virginia.

As to the promised aid for our disabled soldiers and their widows. The republican party will cheerfully unite in every effort in the future as it has in the past; but we warn the people of Virginia that if the party now in power is allowed to remain in control, its incompetency and mismanagement will leave no revenues to be appropriated for the relief of soldiers and their widows.

Sixth, As to the public schools. The statement that the democratic party founded the school system of Virginia is untrue by the record. The school system was incorporated into the Virginia constitution by a republican convention, and adopted by all the people. Its adoption was made a condition precedent to the restoration of the State to her federal relations. The statement that the democratic party has adopted every measure to secure its efficiency is a bold asseveration in view of its long battle for the coupons against the schools, and its pledge of free books for free schools in 1885—a pledge which it has made no pretence whatever of redeeming; and the declaration of its efficient management of the free school system finds a painful denial in the dishonored warrants issued to our school teachers, which are hawked about unpaid under its administration, a condition of things at which the republican party may well be indignant, when it is borne in mind that this abuse was entirely corrected when it was in power.

The declaration in favor of the Blair bill is apace with the other pretences of the paper which we are criticising. The Blair bill was twice passed by a republican Senate and twice defeated by a democratic House. The effort made to place the responsibility for these defeats upon the Hon. John G. Car-

listo is an unmanly and dishonest subterfuge. The Virginia democratic Representatives knew the opposition of Mr. Carlisle to the bill when they went into the democratic caucus. They knew that a majority of that caucus agreed with the views of Mr. Carlisle and would elect him Speaker, placing it in his power to appoint committees and recognize members in such a way as to defeat the measure. With this knowledge they agreed to be bound by the action of that caucus, and voted for Mr. Carlisle. The defeat of the Blair bill was the action of the democratic party, and for that action the democratic Representatives from Virginia were as much responsible as John G. Carlisle, because they agreed to be bound by the action of a caucus which made him Speaker, with full knowledge of his views, and voted for him in obedience to that pledge, thereby surrendering every principle they professed upon the revenue, the tariff and the Blair bill to the dictation of the democratic caucus, well apprised of what they were doing; and we confidently predict the re-election of Mr. Carlisle as democratic Speaker by the next Congress, notwithstanding his opposition to that measure and all similar propositions.

Seventh, As to agriculture. There is not and never can be any conflict between the political parties of this State upon the profession of friendship for our agricultural interests. Upon their thrift is built all prosperity. To their protection the republican party has ever been devoted. But when the democratic party declares its concern for the agricultural interests of the State, it is well to remind the people that Secretary Manning recommended to the 49th Congress a repeal of tariff duties on wheat, oats, corn, hay and other farm products, and that they be placed on the free list, and that tea and coffee should be taxed as luxuries. As Mr. Cleveland endorsed this, and as the democratic party of Virginia has endorsed Mr. Cleveland, it may be well enough for the farmers to consider what this declaration of friendship by the Roanoke platform is worth. A friendship which would bring the agricultural products of the world in competition with our own, in the home market, may prove costly to the farmer.

Eighth, As to the question of friendship to the laboring men. We feel that our party, whose proudest motto is the "Dignity of American Labor and the Protection of American Industries," needs no rapid asseveration of friendship for the laboring man. Such sweet assurances are, however, timely from a party whose administration has indicted and prosecuted co-operative labor, while it has brought convict labor in to active competition with honest industry in town and country, and whose membership is co-ordinate in many localities of this State with "law and order leagues," instituted in opposition to labor organization.

Touching the resolution endorsing the administration of Fitzhugh Lee, Governor of Virginia, as "wise and judicious," we confess ourselves at a loss to know what thought or action of Governor Lee has deserved such commendation. Since his inauguration he has shown himself lacking in the ability or inclination to suggest anything for the relief of this people in their distress. He has invited public meetings of the citizens in various cities and counties to protest against the payment of taxes in coupons. In turn, invited to lend the weight and sanction of his presence as Governor at the meeting held in Richmond pursuant to his call, he pleaded pressing official duties as an excuse for absence. The morning journals of the following day disclosed the fact that he was enjoying the play at the Richmond Theatre with boon companions, at the moment his excuses were being read to the people, who had convened upon his call to discuss their grievances. He invited the representatives of the British bondholders to the capital of Virginia, and while they were in Richmond awaiting the results of their efforts at settlement with the State, involving millions, the public press announced Gov. Lee absent from his Commonwealth, officiating as judge of a horse-race at Washington, D. C. He has used the State boards, which he appoints, to reward broken down military friends and incapable aristocrats, and, in several notable instances, to accomplish his own political and private ends. The sole monument of his administration, so far, is an elevator in the capitol, constructed for his convenience. His employment in office has been self-display and jockeying with associates, unaided by wise or instructive men in the serious duties of his high office. From the date of his inauguration, he has "fiddled while Rome is burning," and frivolous levity is the chief characteristic of his term. Such trifling with grave and sad public interests may be glossed over by the democrats with an endorsement as "wise and judicious." It remains to be seen whether it fills the measure of what the people expected from the nephew of Robert E. Lee. For ourselves, we regret that democratic endorsement of him has necessitated this restrained censure of his administration.

Touching the denunciation of the surplus in the Treasury, the people of Virginia will recall the fact that the accumulation of this surplus was a leading cause in the democratic indictment of republicans in the campaign of 1884, and some further apologies and explanations will doubtless be called for from the democratic leaders as to why this surplus is so much larger now under democratic administration than it was three years ago.

Touching the pledge of the Roanoke platform to protect and foster oysters, we confess that it is wise, if not important, in the present crisis of our State.

So much then for the platform of apologies and explanations, upon which the democratic party goes before the people in the present campaign. We respectfully suggest, however, that it should have extended those apologies and explanations to a number of other things in which the people of Virginia are interested.

It was reasonable to expect that a party which has been in legislative control for four years past would render some account of its stewardship.

This people have the right to know what has become of the \$1,743,712.21 which was in the Treasury in 1884, when democrats received the capitol, and what has been done with the taxes since collected, amounting to over \$10,000,000; and why there is now so little money in the Treasury, with yet an accumulation of overdue and unpaid interest in the same period, increasing the State debt four and a half millions?

They have a right to information as to why the annual costs of administering the Government have increased from \$302,000 (to which sum the republican party had reduced them) to over \$1,250,000.

They are entitled to some explanation and apology as to why the jails are again filled with prisoners, and why the poor are unfed, unprotected with accommodation in the asylum.

They had a right to expect some explanation wherefore two Legislatures sat so often and so long,—some apology for the failure to enact any measure touching the interests of the people,—and some account of the public money thus wasted.

They demand explanation and apology for the continuance of the infamous Anderson-McCulloch bill, which makes fair elections impossible. A measure like this, passed in a moment of high political excitement and passion, is execrable, even if it had been repealed when passion subsided and reason returned; but when it is deliberately perpetuated, it displays the malicious purpose of hearts devoid of social duty and fatally bent upon mischief.

It was their right to know why warrants issued for the pay of the teachers in public schools are no longer cashed promptly by the collecting offices of the revenue, but are left to the mercies of the shaver—and this, too, under an assessed tax—on the part of the State, to employ lawyers to sue for their pay, and why the teachers, because of the ignorance, infidelity and utter incompetency of the person holding the office of Attorney General.

They had a right to expect some explanation of the facts and circumstances under which, as is publicly charged by a democratic legislator, that the Attorney General and the Attorney General of the democratic House of Delegates secured the passage

of a railroad bill in which one or both of them were personally interested, during the last hours of the session of the Legislature when only fifteen members were present, after having announced that no other general legislation would be considered, and when they had thereby succeeded in securing the absence of its known opponents.

It would have been well if this convention of the democratic managers had explained to the people how it was that, when a democratic Senator was indicted for felonious embezzlement in Richmond, his democratic associates repealed the law imposing penalty for such crime, and enabled him to lead the repeal in bar of his prosecution and conviction.

Explanations and apologies as to the stuffed ballot boxes and fraudulent counts in the counties of Charlotte, Halifax, Southampton, Isle of Wight and elsewhere would have been grateful to the ears of many of the anxious citizens of this Commonwealth, who, regardless of party, are beginning to feel that with high-handed outrages of this sort, daily practiced and unrebuked, popular liberty is in danger, no matter in whose hands these crimes are perpetrated.

It would have been well for the democratic managers at Roanoke to have explained to the people the circumstances under which the surplus passed by the democratic Legislature appropriated over \$30,000 to the payment of an unpaid claim of the Kendall Bank Note Company, and in the parties who received portions of that money.

It would have been well to have told the people how one copy of the proceedings of the English debt commissioners were printed, and the cost thereof, and how many were necessary for public purposes and how many were sold for partisan or private ends.

Fellow-citizens, such are some of the reasons wherefore we invite and exhort you to an earnest effort to expel from the control of your affairs the managers of this democracy, who, such as their principles as they have professed, are not enough to lay just claim to, are opposed. As to their pledges, our experience in the past convinces us that they are given with every mental reservation.

But for a kingdom any oath may be broken. "I will be true to you," says the man of the year. As to the practices of this democracy, we submit that its record of crimes and outrages on suffrage in the procurement of power, and of incompetency and bad administration in the exercise of that power when obtained, is a stronger argument than words.

In many respects, we regard the recent Federal succession of the democrats to the presidency as a bitter blow to the people of this State. It has enabled them to feel how wild and delusive was the hope, so long held up before their eyes, that a democratic administration at Washington could bring them blessings or benefits comparable to those enjoyed under a republican administration. The course of the democratic administration in appointing colored men to high offices, and in the pretext of our adversaries which they inflamed their own prejudices until they voted the democratic ticket, on the score that it was "the white man's party." In the full possession of the Government—State and federal—the democratic party, which had promised you untold happiness and prosperity when this should come to pass, behold, you are surrounded by hard times, such as you have seldom witnessed, and offers you no explanations nor apologies for its broken promises. The farmer's products are sold at lower prices than for many years. The workingman finds work more difficult to procure and wages lower than he has ever known. The small business man is ruined. The future is filled with darkness and uncertainty. Amidst all this, democracy rules supreme, and the Roanoke convention congratulates you on "the enjoyment of the blessings" of democratic government—State and federal.

There is a suggestion of business in the specifications as to what constitutes your enjoyment, and what are the particular blessings to which they refer. There was an apparent lack of appreciation of these blessings by the people in the results of our Congressional elections last year. It is possible, however, that they were sympathetic then that it was no expression of their real feelings, and that we may yet see real enthusiasm of the people for democracy from the recent results in Kentucky?

Undisputed by these evidences of the popularity of democratic rule, and trusting that we may be forgiven if we distrust the unalloyed happiness of our people, we appeal to you, who are in the enjoyment of the blessings of democracy, to elect democratic officers, and we respectfully submit this address to the people of Virginia, in the hope and belief that before they resolve to vote again with the democratic managers of this State they will ponder their statements, and recurring to the past, contrast our present position with the prosperity and content which pervaded our land under the administration of the republican party.

It surely is a cheaply won and an easily retained trust which reposes in fancied security upon a cabal of shifty trimmers, who, denouncing republicanism and professing democracy, acquiesce in the rule of a republican platform in 1887 and have adopted the national republican platform in 1887.

WM. MAHONE, Chairman.
ASA ROGERS, Secretary.
Petersburg, Va., August 18th, 1887.

THE FIRST LADY MAYOR.—Argonia, Kan., is the only town in America which ever elected a woman to the office of mayor.

Mayor Salter's maiden name was Susanna Madora Kinsey. She was born of parents who were members of the Society of Friends, on a farm near Laramie, Belmont county, O., in 1860. In 1872, when she was 12 years old, she removed with her parents to a farm 12 miles west of Topeka, Kan. In 1878 and 1879 she attended the Kansas State Industrial College, Manhattan, where Louis A. Salter, son of a Lieutenant Governor of the State, to whom she was married in 1880, was a fellow student. Owing to ill health Miss Kinsey did not graduate, but left college for home in the early part of 1880. When in 1883 her father's family removed to Argonia, she and her husband went with them. The place was a settlement of Quakers, and his first master was Oliver Kinsey, her father. Mrs. Salter and her husband were prominent in organizing a Baptist church, and to her is largely due the origin of a flourishing branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Mayor Salter was elected last spring. Only two days before election a meeting of the W. C. T. U. was called, at which a candidate for mayor and councilmen were named. Early on election day morning an anti-prohibitionist, thinking it a joke, ordered some tickets to be printed with the five councilmen on it as named by the women's meeting, but substituting Mrs. Salter's name for that of their candidate for mayor. Her friends set to work and accomplished what had been proposed as an ill natured joke. Mrs. Salter's salary is \$100 a year. The mayor of Argonia is about 5 feet 3 inches in height. She is thin and of an active temperament. Her eyes are gray and her crimped hair of a blonde shade. The cares of office have induced her to engage the services of a domestic, but otherwise her arrangements at home are as they were before her election. She learned dress-making while at college, and makes her own and her children's clothing. Mrs. Salter was busy at the wash tub when her consent was gained to serve as mayor.—Detroit Free Press.

On the Chesapeake and Ohio R. R. Sunday night two freight trains collided about ten miles above Charleston, W. Va., totally demolishing the engines and fifteen cars loaded with merchandise. The loss will reach \$75,000.

Mr. John L. Bacon, the president of the State Bank, and prominently identified with other business enterprises in Richmond died yesterday evening, aged 75 years.

JOHN A. CAIRD.—It is due to Justice and Truth that what Mr. Philip Hooft says should be generally published. Mr. Hooft and his daughter have always been invariably kind to him, and had him comfortably cared for and most kindly treated; that he had his choice of rooms and they never allowed the little colored girl Nanny Vine, only seven years old, to strike or be rude to him in their presence, and that everything contrary to this statement is utterly false and untrue.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Correspondence of the Alex. Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 23, 1887.

A Virginia republican, of anti-Mahone proclivities, here this morning gave his opinion of the recent Mahone address. He said it was an able paper, and would undoubtedly have its effect, especially in those sections where democratic disaffection was greatest last fall. Its effect would have been greater in arousing republican enthusiasm if Mahone had allowed the name of the real author to be signed instead of fathering the document himself. Johnnie Wise evidently wrote it. It is his in style and expression, except in a few lines evidently written by Mahone. For instance, said he, Mahone lugs in his favorite expression, "It is known of all men." Mahone has always been kind to Wise, because in that way he can get him to work in his traces, and he relies much on him as a vehicle to express his ideas in better language than he himself can command. Wise is the ablest man, in my opinion, in Virginia, in either party, but his subserviency to Mahone has killed him politically. Will we oppose Mahone? Of course we will, and we will make the best fight we can this fall to elect a republican Legislature, but with the avowed determination that we will never allow Mahone to come to the Senate again. I know of several localities where I confidently expect republican success this fall, but no candidate of our party can be nominated in them unless pledged to oppose Mahone even to the extent of refusing to go into any caucus that will allow his name to go before it. You democrats underrate the feeling against Mahone in our party. We feel that he is the great obstacle in our way to success. You democrats ought to love him; he is the man who keeps the great body of independent democrats in Virginia from joining our party. If you into your arms we will sweep the State by a large majority. "We," said he, "are the only party workers in Virginia now. Our campaign is well under way, while yours seems to be sleeping. Mahone is flooding the mails with his campaign matter, and his friends are actively at work in every county in the State. Your party, when they go to work, will find much of the ground occupied before them, and will find it no easy matter to offset some of the gains Mahone will have secured by that time."

It is rumored here that Senator Sherman, General Mahone's favorite for the next republican Presidential nomination, having been informed that the General's support will be likely to do him more harm than good, has intimated to him the advisability of being less personal in his politics than he has been.

Charles S. Macomber, who died here yesterday, was one of the President's old chums in Buffalo, and was an able and efficient working democrat. He came on here after Mr. Cleveland's election in expectation of getting an office, but, though the office never came, apoplexy did, and before he died he and his family had reached abject poverty. Being informed of their sad condition, the President sent them fifty dollars and some provisions.

A gentleman just arrived here from Oakney Springs, says that Mr. Cab. Maddux, the well known and popular proprietor of those Springs and of the Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, is too ill at the former place to be removed—so ill that his friends fear it is almost impossible for him to recover.

The President was at the White House to day, and received some visitors.

Some of the members of the State democratic committee of Virginia passed through here yesterday evening on their way to Richmond, where their committee will organize to day.

Loudoun county people here to-day say that Mr. Eyan will be the regular democratic candidate for the legislature in their county, but that there is some talk there of his being opposed by another democrat, who will run as the farmer's candidate, though Mr. Eyan is a farmer and must therefore have the farmers' interest at heart.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Late yesterday afternoon three prisoners in Accomac, Va., jail escaped.

The Virginia democratic State committee meet in Richmond to day to arrange the campaign work.

Much of the corn crop of the lower Rappahannock is reported badly injured by drought and the intense hot weather.

Negotiations are in progress at Berlin with reference to Bulgaria, and it is believed that Germany will assent to its occupation by Russia.

A severe wind and rain storm raged along the New Jersey coast Saturday night. The sea cut a channel across the beach, carrying away the railroad track north of Beach Haven for a considerable distance, stopping the running of that train.